

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03  
SCA-01 SSO-00 INSE-00 /039 W  
-----029193 220313Z /63/42

O P 211546Z JUL 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9500  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 6101

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 6101 VICE 611

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR  
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT CASE REFUGEES PROCEEDING TO  
SOUTH AFRICA  
REF: (A) GENEVA 3246 (NOTAL)  
(B) DURBAN 244 (NOTAL)

1. UNHCR HAS ADVISED MISSION OF 15 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES  
PICKED UP IN SOUTH CHINA SEA BY BRITISH FLAG "GAS TANKER",  
CAVANDISH, WHICH UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO LAND THEM  
AT NEXT PORT OF CALL, ARJUNA, INDONESIA (DATE UNKNOWN).  
CAVANDISH NOW PROCEEDING TO DURBAN, WHERE IT IS SCHEDULED  
TO ARRIVE JULY 29. DURBAN AGENTS ARE MITCHELL KOTAS  
COMPANY. CAVANDISH'S NEXT PORT OF CALL AFTER DURBAN IS  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, WHERE SHIP IS DUE AUGUST 21.

2. UNHCR HAS PROBLEM IN THIS CASE, AS IT DID WITH  
REFUGEES ABOARD "VAN DER STEL" (REFTELS) IN THAT, AS UN  
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ORGANIZATION, IT HAS NO RELATIONSHIPS WITH OR REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. ITS INITIAL INCLINATION IS, THEREFORE, TO HAVE REFUGEES PROCEED ABOARD CAVANDISH TO CORPUS CHRISTI. MISOFF POINTED OUT THAT THREE WEEK PLUS VOYAGE MIGHT REPRESENT HARDSHIP BOTH FOR REFUGEES AND FOR SHIP OPERATORS. UNHCR CONCURRED, STATING THAT CONDITIONS ABOARD SHIP SHOULD BE DETERMINED BEFORE COARSE

OF ACTION DECIDED. HOWEVER, REFERRING TO PROLONGED STAY OF "VAN DER STEL" REFUGEES IN DURBAN, UNHCR REP SAID PROBLEM WOULD BE POSED IF UNHCR WERE PRESENTED WITH OFFICIAL BILLING BY SAG FOR CARE AND MAINTANANCE OF THESE LANDED REFUGEES. HE DID NOT QUESTION MISOFF'S POINT THAT UNHCR MIGHT WORK THROUGH RED CROSS AS IT HAD IN "VAN DER STEL" CASE, BUT ONLY ALLOWED THAT THIS PROCEDURE ALSO RAISED (UNSPECIFIED) PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT: UNLESS IT UNEXPECTEDLY SHOULD DEVELOP THAT BOTH REFUGEES AND SHIP OPERATORS ARE PLEASED OVER PRESENT SITUATION ABOARD CAVANDISH, IT SEEMS TO MISSION THAT EFFECTIVE MEANS SHOULD BE SOUGHT, AS IN PREVIOUS CASE, TO LAND THESE REFUGEES AT FIRST PORT OF CALL, DURBAN, FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE ONWARD MOVEMENT TO RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING POINT. IF SITUATION ABOARD CAVANDISH SIMILAR TO THAT IN SIMILAR PREVIOUS CASES, THREE WEEK CONTINUATION OF VOYAGE WOULD PRESENT UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP FOR BOTH REFUGEES AND SHIP OPERATORS, WHO HAVE BECOME INVOLVED ONLY AS RESULT OF LAUDABLE HUMANITARIAN ACTION. END COMMENT.

4. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS REQUESTED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977GENEVA06101  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 77 GENEVA 3246, 77 DURBAN 244  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** VIETNAMESE BOAT CASE REFUGEES PROCEEDING TO SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** SREF, XA, UNHCR  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009